

MARGARITA ECHEVARRIA, ESQ.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

February 16, 1996

Robert G. Toricelli, Congressman

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Congressman Toricelli:

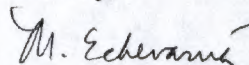
Thank you for your letter of February 2, 1996 concerning the impact of the Republican agenda on legal immigrants and education. I would be interested in the background data upon which the Republicans justify their position including any analysis of such data conducted by your office.

I find their position on education particularly harsh. As the daughter of Puerto Rican immigrants, the availability of student loans assured the completion of my higher education goals. I also am concerned that cuts in funding for vocational and adult education programs may undercut one of the principal goals of the Family Development Initiative legislation in New Jersey. How will the state meet their training goals under this welfare reform program without related federal support.

With reference to legal immigrants I know from my community activities that after Puerto Ricans and Cubans, Ecuadorians and Dominicans are the two largest growing hispanic communities in New Jersey. For such recently arrived groups the opportunity to reunite with their sometimes economically dependent families is critical.

Again, thank you for the information provided. I look forward to the receipt of the additional information I've requested.

Sincerely,

  
Margarita Echevarria

ME/rr



ROBERT G. TORRICELLI  
9TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3009

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February 2, 1996

Ms. Margarita Echevaria  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Echevaria:

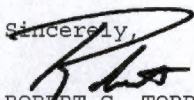
I would like to take this opportunity to share thoughts about some issues of common concern to all of us.

One key concern is the Republican agenda on Immigration. The recently passed Reconciliation Bill, for example, reduces spending by \$26 billion over seven years by eliminating several programs for immigrants. In addition, the Immigration Enforcement Improvement Act would make it considerably harder for immigrants to reunite with their families. While I support legislation that stops the flow of illegal immigration, I am concerned that such legislation is unfair to legal immigrants.

Another area of concern is education. The Republican-authored Budget Resolution, for example, calls for student loan cuts of \$4.2 billion over five years and the elimination of bilingual education. Funding for several vocational and adult education programs has been eliminated. I am worried about these changes as I believe that no one should be denied access to an education. For this reason I cosponsored the Student Loan Affordability Act that provides a tax deduction on the payment of interest on student loans.

In addition, Republican-sponsored welfare reform legislation prohibits legal immigrants from receiving benefits in areas such as Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Supplemental Security Income. This legislation also makes it harder for families to sponsor immigrant relatives. I am deeply concerned about the burdens this will cause on our legal immigrant population. I will follow these issues closely, and please feel free to contact me regarding your opinions on these matters.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT G. TORRICELLI  
Member of Congress

MARGARITA ECHEVARRIA, ESQ.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

February 16, 1996

Mr. Rafael Figueroa  
c/o Ms. Marta Bahamon

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Re: R. Toricelli

Dear Rafael:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from Congressman Toricelli. As it concerns the effect of recently passed legislation affecting legal immigrants, I thought you might have data concerning such immigrants in N.J. and wish to comment on the negative impact such legislation would have on them.

Please copy me if you reply.

Sincerely,

*Margie*

Margarita Echevarria

ME/rr